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the designer of the great monument for the Plymouth Pilgrims. The new design is the figure in bronze of a "Minute Man" of the colossal height of eighteen feet, just as he has left the plough, seized his musket and repaired to the defence of his rights. It is proposed to be elevated on a pedestal, the latter to be ornamented with four historical bas reliefs. If the design should be adopted, it is proposed to erect it on a small hill a few rods westerly of the present monument on Lexington Common, at an elevation of some forty feet above the road.

The *National Intelligencer*, in speaking of the portrait of Chief Justice Marshall, which has been painted by Mr. Washington, a young artist, says it will be on exhibition in a few days, and pays a deserved compliment to the artist, some of whose works we have had the pleasure of seeing. It says all the friends of the Chief Justice will at once recognize a striking likeness of him in this picture.

At a late sale of paintings, held in Boston, good prices were obtained. The *Atlas* says of it: "An auction sale of artists' paintings conducted by Leonard & Co., was not only one of the most interesting, but one of the most satisfactory ever held in Boston. The selection consisted of eighty-two pieces, and comprised contributions from Bradford, Champney, (one of whose White Mountain views found a purchaser in a gentleman whose presence at North Conway last season enhanced its attractiveness to numerous people,) Mrs. Darrah, Gay, Morviller, and Rondell. Morviller sent in thirteen pieces, Rondell twenty-five."

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#### CHURCH'S "HEART OF THE ANDES."

 **H**E feature of the season is Church's "Heart of the Andes." This picture, whose approach to completion excited such pleasing expectations upon the part of connoisseurs, has more than answered its promise: without doubt it is the finest landscape ever painted in this country, and one of the best ever painted, if we are to accept the general verdict of the public, the press, and those best qualified to pronounce upon a true work of genius. The canvas is about 6 by 8 feet. In the foreground we have the almost

boundlessly rich growth of trees, grasses, and flowers of a South American tropical valley forest. A river of rapids and waterfalls come leaping down through the centre, giving depth and brilliancy to the composition. Slowly rising from the background until its summits "are lost in glory," is the "Heart of the Andes"—the old, impenetrable mountain of ice and snow whose monstrous proportions have become landmarks to the voyageur and explorer. This is the subject. It is wrought out with surpassing breadth, completeness, and force. The impression is one of unmixed grandeur, modified by the sweetness of the purely beautiful. An artist of less power would have given us a series of detached pictures—like a paragraphist for the press, a series of hints. But, like the full and perfectly balanced mind of Milton, or Macaulay, or Carlyle, Mr. Church has approached his work, and given, in one grand expression, the power, and depth, and greatness, and beauty of a most glorious subject. Such a sky as overmantles all! It is, beyond all question, one of the most heavenly of skies ever painted by any mortal hand—it alone, without Andes, or stream, or tree, or flower, would render the painter-hand immortal.

The detail of the picture is wondrous. We not only have trees but their very substance, not only leaves but their very texture, not only grasses but other grasses underlaid, filling up even the cool depths of the tufts. The water which comes leaping down, cutting the canvas into two pictures—like a nose of beauty dividing the stars of the eyes and the roses of the cheeks into two worlds—is of that exquisite *texture* which fairly deceives the senses—clear, talking, cool, and moving. It required the study and experience of "the Niagara" to catch the spirit of the waterfall so faithfully. By the gorges of the stream the eye is led into the background, through a perspective of the most perfect development and completeness:—we *know* that the base of the mountain lies just seven miles away, for we can measure the distance for ourselves. The color is rich, and strongly laid on—too green some may say, but not more green nor more bewildering than the hues which Nature herself has laid upon the spot.

The painting has higher claims than could be accorded to it as a mere landscape. It is a composition. A few fea-

tures are sketches on the spot, but the filling out, the detail, the variety and language, are all the artist's own—rendering it individual rather than one of a species—an original Poem rather than a translation. The "Niagara" was merely the Niagara daguerreotyped by a skilful hand and appreciative spirit; the "Heart of the Andes" is a creation wrought from the richness of the artist's own fancy. It therefore reaches into realms of ideality, and stands out as the painter's contribution to the art-expression of his age.

The exhibition of the painting in New-York has been attended with great success. Over one hundred dollars per day were taken at the door for admittance during the three weeks of its exhibition. It would, without doubt, have continued to attract crowds for weeks more. It is withdrawn for shipment to Europe. Under the directorship of Mr. McClure, late of the firm of Messrs. Williams, Stevens & Williams, it will take the tour of the Continent, and be exhibited in London, Paris, Dusseldorf, Berlin, Vienna, Florence, Rome, Naples, Madrid, Lisbon, &c., &c., returning to London for a season, and then back to this country in the coming fall. Its exhibition in the great art-centres of Europe must challenge the severest ordeals of criticism, but we have no fears for its success. It will compel such a recognition of American art as has never yet been given.

We are glad to learn that the painting will be engraved upon steel, in London, in the highest style of pure line engraving. It will thus be measurably reproduced, and placed within reach of all whose taste and means enable them to enjoy such a work of true art.

Among the many tributes of admiration paid the artist, the poets have not held their peace. From several handed us we choose from one, styled "Slakings of Thirst," by Miss Laura Elmer, the following lines:

O everlasting peak! snow prisoned dome!  
O summit, glory crowned! I gaze in awe  
Upon thy solemn rest! upheavings o'er,  
And labor long since past, thou hast attained  
The cloudless realm—thou'ret with the Infinite!  
\* \* \* \* \*

We leave the mount sublime, benignant, calm,  
And thrill at all the clustered wealth below;  
The luxury of tropic nature spread.  
"Heaped up and running over" is the meed.  
Spirit of Beauty here, too, thou art throned;  
Thy mystic power doth touch us, and we thrill—  
We burn in rapture, melting all our snow.  
\* \* \* \* \*

The Andes' heart! how warm, how passionate!  
All stars, and leaves, and flowers, and birds,  
And gliding stream, enlivener of the scene!  
The rosy cascade leaps, just while I gaze,  
Betw'en the rocky walls and swelling moss,—  
Itself its mirror spreads, itself reflects,  
Its rosiness so sweetly soft below,—  
Met farther down, by tinkling rills, that leap  
In graceful dance, from shaded ledge and glen,  
Fast tangled vines, and tropic bloom so gay,  
And lustrous plumage of the "Inca' bird"—  
A foreground gem, a living, emerald grace,  
For which our hearts leap up and give their thanks,  
Give thanks in unison with those that pause,  
Beside the cross, upon the dappled road,—  
The sacred cross of Love and Sacrifice! —  
And last, behold the amethyst trophy-tree,  
With wondrous vines in wondrous light and shade,  
The burning orchis cheek against its side,  
Contrasting with the pure white lucent bell,  
Among the great exotic leaves, each rich in light,  
Each soft in shade, *in shade that's full of light!*  
And trailing curious vines, and strange fair blooms,  
Which until now, their sweeteness wasted there.  
*A sunbeam has sought out the spot,*  
Burst through some forest cleft—hangs on that stem,  
That trophy shaft, whereon are characters—  
A name that brought a kernel to our taste—  
That brought us life-drops from the Andes' heart!  
Exquisitely refined! the sunny beam  
Glow just above the name—not on its etch:—  
A living beam from the great Sun of Art,  
Which floods at last, all artists and their works.

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#### X NATIONAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.

HE thirty-fourth annual exhibition of the National Academy of Design has, we believe, disappointed public expectation. The number of works exhibited is over eight hundred. Out of this very large catalogue not to exceed twenty can be called pictures of the second class—of first-class works there is not a single one, except it be Mr. Johnson's "Southern Life," which we are disposed to regard as, in several respects, a first-class character piece. Pictures of the third class, embracing many good and valuable things, number about seventy. The rest of the collection is made up of what we must call crudities, possessing, in many instances, good parts and points, but characterized by want of finish, defects in coloring, drawing, and perspective, imperfect conception of subject, and coarse filling in of detail. The general impression produced, therefore, is not a desirable one; it is one of disappointment if not of dissatisfaction. James and William Hart, Casilear, Tait, Hays, Gifford, Huntington, Kensett, Sonntag, Durand, Mignot, Shattuck, Jerome Thompson, have all done

well, but have not advanced in excellence over former years; Hicks has positively failed; Elliott is not as satisfactory as usual; Rossiter and Cropsey are extremely unsatisfactory; Church is not represented at all; Stillman offers a mere burlesque; so the record runs. The level of excellence is a moderate one at best. It would be a relief if we could discover progress in the younger race of workers, but, aside from Dix and Bellows, we do not remember having detected any marked advance over previous years' contributions.

The success of Church's "Heart of the Andes" doubtless has injured the Academy exhibition; for the visitor, fresh from the Tenth-street Studio building, would institute comparisons with Mr. Church's great work—how the best things in the Academy pale before this single canvas! Hence, on many occasions, a feeling and expression which have done the Academy exhibition poor justice. We think it is a fact that art taste has taken a long leap forward during the last two years. The public exhibition of the private collections of Messrs. Belmont, Aspinwall, Wright, and others, the Dusseldorf Gallery standing exhibition, the sale of many of the best works our best artists could produce, have all united to render the public more critical and more expectant. This is, certainly, a good sign, and our artists must bestir themselves or that much decried public will get the lead of them, and go abroad for works of first-class character, because such cannot be obtained from home studios.

We can but hope that, in future exhibitions, the committee will exercise severer taste in the admission. Such a course may displease some refused candidate and his friends, but it will do even them good, for it will (or should) prove an incentive to better performance thereafter. By pursuing a more discretionary and arbitrary course, the walls will be cumbered with less pictures, and thus add to the interest which the visitor must take in those exhibited. Think of a half dozen rooms filled, two and three deep, with paintings, and numbering over eight hundred; to give five minutes' observation only to each work would require sixty-six hours of hasty study. No person in his right senses would care to spend so much time upon immature works. Reduce the number to three hundred or less; give ten, fifteen, and twenty minutes to each, and

the cause of art will be profited vastly more than under the present latitudinarian arrangement.

The general judgment being against this year's exhibition will, we trust, have the good effect to stir up the artists to renewed industry, care, and study, for the coming year. If it fails to produce this effect we shall be inclined to think the exhibitions productive of little good to the artists themselves, to the cause of art taste, or to the public.

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#### X THE ART COMMISSION.



E are glad to learn that Mr. Buchanan has appointed as members of the Art Commission, created by the act of Congress for the adornment of our National Capitol, Messrs. H. K. Browne of Washington, J. R. Lambdin of Philadelphia, J. F. Kensett of New-York. The granting of this commission on petition of the artists of the country assembled in convention at Washington, was an act of simple justice to our art, while it arrested the misapplication of public money in cheap, traditional, tawdry, and unmeaning ornamentation, with which European decorative painters were covering the walls. Art is sadly caricatured at Washington. Commissions are obtained there, as they get water at Paris, by boring; by private and personal or political favor. The old brazen statue of Jefferson by Houdon, which stands, covered green with verdigris, before the White-House, is the only respectable piece of sculpture to be seen in the public grounds. It is graceful and dignified in action, and is a careful, faithful, refined, and valuable likeness. The Jackson, of Mills, is a monument of that reckless American audacity which rushes without forethought or preparation from the farm, or work-bench, or counter, into the arena of legislation, diplomacy, letters, science, or art. It is the work of a boy who had reached no conception of the end or method of art, who had not studied so much as the organization of a horse, and whose triumph as a sculptor was the unattempted absurdity of throwing the animal on his haunches and balancing him in that position by the weight of his tail. The Jackson is a wooden toy figure in the dignified and characteristic